



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item

Agenda Item No. **4**



City Manager's Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: John Ruffcorn, Police Chief
Prepared by: Amy Lind, Deputy City Clerk
Date: March 24, 2014
Subject: Letter of Support for Placer County's Probation Department - Application for Smart Probation Grant

The Issue

Shall the City Council approve the letter of support for Placer County's Probation Department application for a Smart Probation Grant?

Conclusion and Recommendation

By **MOTION**, approve the letter of support for Placer County's Probation Department application for a Smart Probation Grant ("Exhibit A").

Background

The Placer County Probation Department with support from the Law Enforcement agencies within the county is applying for the Smart Supervision Probation Grant. The title of this project is Placer County Re-Entry Program (PREP). PREP is a new concept for Placer County. It creates a re-entry center where offenders will go immediately following release, where assessments are given and necessary and immediate support is provided.

The main purpose of this project is to assess offenders prior to their release so that probation and supporting cities will provide immediate, strategic support and monitoring to new releases in order to reduce recidivism while maintaining a safe community. This project intends to serve up to 30 adults annually, aged 18 and over, who are high-risk offenders.

Research has shown that recidivism can be reduced by providing identified services and directed support that help adults as they transition from custody to the community. Evidence-based strategies include:

- Assessing risk and needs of offenders prior to their release (Ohio Risk Assessment System-ORAS);
- Assigning offenders the appropriate level of supervision (High-risk but non-violent, non-serious or non-high risk sex crimes for this project);
- Creating and utilizing individualized rehabilitation management plans to address the most criminogenic needs, and;

- Implementing responses to new releases that recognize and reward desired behavior while providing sanctions for behaviors that will not lead to productive rehabilitation (identify rewards and sanctions/share with offenders and use every six months).

The program design elements include:

- Increase capacity of localities;
- Test new policies and strategies for community supervision and treatment to increase public safety and generate savings;
- Promote the use of evidence-based programs;
- Expand collaboration and strategic partnerships between community supervision agencies, law enforcement and service providers;
- Evaluate the results of the new strategies and tools.

The validated assessment tool to be used to determine the offender's risk level and identification of the offender's needs will be the ORAS.

Funds from this grant will be used for a Deputy Probation Officer and instructors to provide classes. In the first year, a kiosk will be purchased and tested for easy access to the services and paying fees after court appearances. Supplies and materials will also be purchased. As part of the grant requirement, a portion of the grant must be reserved for an outside researcher/evaluator to provide quarter and semi-annual reports on the progress of the goals and objectives of this proposal. Data will be utilized to identify program strengths and areas for improvement.

Attachments

Letter of Support

Fiscal Impact

No associated costs to the City.

Exhibit A



March 24, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted in support of Placer County Probation Department's application for the Smart Probation grant. The proceeds from this grant will allow the probation department to establish a re-entry center, called Probation Re-Entry Program (PREP). Essential elements include conducting a risk assessment prior to release, a battery of questions that will identify necessary services to support the offenders upon re-entry into their community and collaboration with service providers, law enforcement, and the court system. Through this collaborative effort, the main goal of this project is to reduce recidivism, save much needed funds and maintain a safe community.

The City of Auburn is committed to continuing our partnership with the Placer County Probation Department and support the expansion of their current services.

We believe that the Placer County Probation Department will deliver on their promise to provide offenders with the necessary tools so that they can achieve their highest potential and contribute to their community. We encourage your favorable response to this grant application.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bridget Powers
On Behalf of the Auburn City Council
City of Auburn